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SUPREME COURT, U.S.

No. 83-

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 1983

TERRY MICHAEL MINCEY,

Petitioner,

versus

STATE OF GEORGIA,

Respondent.

83-5389

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Michael R. Hauptman
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404/525-4110

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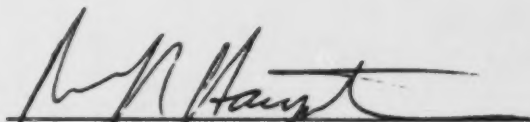
83-5389

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED IN
THIS COURT IN FORMA PAUPERIS

Petitioner, by and through counsel, moves this Honorable Court, pursuant to Rule 46 of this Court, to permit him to proceed with this action in forma pauperis. As evidence of petitioner's poverty and in accordance with Rule 46, petitioner has submitted a notarized Affidavit of Poverty.

Petitioner prays that this Court grant this motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael R. Hauptman
Counsel for Petitioner
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57 Forsyth Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404/525-4110

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AFFIDAVIT OF ATTORNEY IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

I, Michael R. Hauptman, being first duly sworn, deposes and states that I am the attorney for the petitioner in the above entitled matter, that in support of petitioner's motion to proceed in this action for a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of Georgia without being required to prepay fees, costs or give security therefore, I state that because of petitioner's poverty he is unable to pay the costs of said proceeding or to give security therefor.

I further swear that the information stated below regarding the ability of petitioner to pay the costs of proceeding herein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

-1-

The petitioner is not presently employed. He has been incarcerated since April 13, 1982. Prior to that time, petitioner had various odd jobs, but no regular employment.

-2-

Petitioner has received within the past twelve months no income from a business, profession or other form of self-employment. He has received nothing in the form of rent payments, interest, dividends or moneys from any other source.

-3-

Petitioner has no cash and has no checking or savings account.

-4-

Petitioner owns no real estate, stocks, bonds, notes, automobiles, or other valuable property excluding ordinary household furnishings and clothing.

-5-

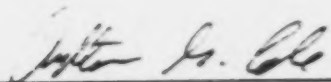
There are no persons who are dependent upon the petitioner for support.

-6-

That counsel was appointed to represent petitioner at the trial of his case and in his appeal to the Georgia Supreme Court. That I am not charging, nor receiving any fees with regarding my representation of petitioner in t is case.


Michael A. Hauptman

Subscribed to and sworn to
before me this 16th day of
September, 1983.



Notary Public
My Comm. Expires on 12/31/85

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This Court should Grant review to determine whether the pronounced misconduct by the prosecutor in his closing argument during the guilt/innocence phase of petitioner's capital trial violated petitioner's Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

1

This Court should grant review to determine whether the trial court's denial of petitioner's motion to preclude the death penalty as a possible penalty violated petitioner's Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

3

This Court should grant review to determine whether the trial court's denial of petitioner's motion for funds for investigation violated petitioner's Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

5

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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STATE OF GEORGIA,

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PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Petitioner, Terry Michael Mincey, prays that a writ of certiorari be issued to review the judgment of the Supreme Court of Georgia, entered on July 7, 1983, rehearing denied July 21, 1983.

CITATIONS TO OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the Supreme Court of Georgia is set out in 221 Ga. 255, _____ S.E.2d _____, (1983), and is set out in Appendix A.

JURISDICTION

Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1257(3), petitioner having asserted below and asserts in this Court deprivation of rights secured by the Constitution of the United States.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution provides in relevant part:

Nor shall he be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself...

The Sixth Amendment to the Constitution provides in relevant part:

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed,...

The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution provides:

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive

finer imposed nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution provides in relevant part:

Nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...

This case also involves the following provisions of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the texts of which are set out in Appendix B:

O.C.G.A., § 17-10-30 (formerly Ga. Code Ann., § 27-2534.1)

O.C.G.A., § 17-10-31 (formerly Ga. Code Ann., § 26-3102)

O.C.G.A., § 17-10-36 (formerly Ga. Code Ann., § 27-2538)

O.C.G.A., § 17-8-75 (formerly Ga. Code Ann., § 81-1009)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1) Whether the pronounced misconduct by the prosecutor in his closing argument during the guilt/innocence phase of petitioner's capital trial violated petitioner's Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights?

2) Whether the trial court's denial of petitioner's motion to preclude the death penalty as a possible penalty violated petitioner's Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights?

3) Whether the trial court's denial of petitioner's motion for funds for investigation violated petitioner's Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment rights?

HOW THE ISSUES WERE RAISED BELOW

The constitutional issues in the questions presented were raised on appeal to the Supreme Court of Georgia which affirmed petitioner's sentence of death.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner was convicted for the offenses of murder, armed robbery, and aggravated battery. The death penalty was imposed for the murder conviction. Appellant was indicted on April 17, 1982. (R-2) Inasmuch as appellant is not raising any attack upon his conviction as it relates to weight or sufficiency of evidence, a statement of the manner in which the offenses occurred is not necessary for the purposes raised in this petition.

After indictment, two attorneys were appointed to represent petitioner in the trial court proceedings. Numerous pretrial motions were filed in the case, the rulings on two of these motions are raised in this petition.

Appellant was placed on trial on August 23, 1982, and was convicted and sentenced to death on August 26, 1982.

A Motion for New Trial was filed on September 24, 1982. (R-122) An amendment to the Motion for New Trial was filed on November 12, 1982 (R-131), which amendment outlined specific complaints to be addressed by the trial court in addition to the general grounds. A further amendment to the Motion for New Trial was filed on November 20, 1982 (R-136), which amendment dealt with newly discovered evidence. Another amendment to the Motion for New Trial was filed on December 3, 1982, (R-141), which amendment dealt with failure to disclose statements of the petitioner made while in custody.

Extensive hearings were held on the Motion for New Trial as amended (MK-Transcript) and, on December 10, 1982, the trial court overruled petitioner's Motion for New Trial as amended. (R-142)

Trial counsel for both the petitioner and the State agreed upon a special designation of transcripts which will be outlined here. Pretrial matters are transcribed at MA through MH. Voir dire proceedings were transcribed in the three volume transcript preceded by the letter J. Trial proceedings after voir dire examination are designated by a three volume transcript preceded by the letter T. Post trial proceedings

begin at Transcript MI and continue through the two volume transcript MK dealing with the hearing on the Motion for New Trial.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

For the reasons which follow, this Court should issue a writ of certiorari to review the decision of the Georgia Supreme Court.

1) THIS COURT SHOULD GRANT REVIEW TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PRONOUNCED MISCONDUCT BY THE PROSECUTOR IN HIS CLOSING ARGUMENT DURING THE GUILT/INNOCENCE PHASE OF PETITIONER'S CAPITAL TRIAL VIOLATED PETITIONER'S FIFTH, EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

The District Attorney in his closing argument during the guilt/innocence phase improperly commented on petitioner's failure to testify. The language objected to appears at T-357 line 13 as follows:

Is there anything wrong with a Judge or a District Attorney making a recommendation that would say that at least on the third count of these three counts a man who comes in and tells the truth should get somewhat better treatment than a man who refused to tell the truth?

In context, the District Attorney was explaining the necessity of favorable treatment for Jenkins and Jones, petitioner's co-defendants at trial. But in his effort to do so crossed the line and constituted comment upon the petitioner's failure to testify at trial. Counsel objected to the improper argument at T-416 during the trial court's review of those portions of Georgia's unified appeal checklist which pertained to the conduct of the trial itself. Counsel's objection begins at line 8 of that page. At line 17, the court expressed the opinion that the prosecutor had not argued as contended by the defense and conducted no further inquiry into the matter. In effect then the court overruled petitioner's objection to this improper argument. Petitioner contends that overruling this objection was error which violated his Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights, which should require the granting of a new trial.

The defendant in a criminal case cannot be compelled to testify and his failure to do so will create no presumption against him. More importantly, no one may comment directly or indirectly on the accused's failure to testify. Spann vs. State, 126 Ga. App. 370, 372, (1972). The trial court

has an affirmative duty to prevent improper argument. Brown vs. State, 110 Ga. App. 401, 407 (1964). An improper comment may be grounds for a mistrial if the prejudicial effect of the comment cannot be removed from the jury's mind. O.C.G.A., § 17-8-75. In order to make improper argument a basis for appellate review, counsel must object to the comment or invoke a ruling from the Court. Joiner vs. State, 208 Ga. 435 (1951). It is not, however, essential that a motion for mistrial be made; objection to the argument alone is sufficient. Mims vs. State, 188 Ga. 702, (1938); Brooks vs. State, 183 Ga. 466 (1936).

To reverse because of improper comment, at least one of the following must be found: one, that the prosecutor's intention was to comment on the defendant's failure to testify; or two, that the nature and character of the comment was such that the jury would necessarily and naturally consider it a comment on the accused's failure to testify. Ranger vs. State, 249 Ga. 315, 319 (1982) (quoting U.S. vs. Rochan, 563 F.2d 1246, 1249 (5th Circuit, 1977)). Petitioner is not required to show that the jurors actually did construe the improper statement to mean that reference was made to the accused's failure to testify; he need only show that the jurors could have so construed the statement. Spann vs. State, supra.

The prosecutor's comment in line 17 quoted above with reference to a "a man who refused to tell the truth" clearly refers to petitioner and falls within either prong of the test stated in Ranger. With regard to express intention to so comment on failure to testify, petitioner is unable to conjure up an equally plausible explanation for the statement. There is none. The prosecutor clearly referred to petitioner and did so with the express intention to call the jury's attention to his failure to tell the truth in contrast with his assertion that Jones and Jenkins did tell the truth at trial. It was an attempt to discredit petitioner in the eyes of the jury and is plainly prohibited. Woodard vs. State,

234 Ga. 901, (1975); Roberts vs. State, 231 Ga. 395 (1973).

Petitioner also asserts that the comment would naturally be interpreted by the jury to be a remark concerning petitioner's failure to testify. Again, the reference was made expressly toward petitioner and contrasted him with his co-defendants. There is no way the jury could have failed to interpret the remark as a comment on his failure to testify at trial. This is the exact type of statement that the Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments prohibit.

2) THIS COURT SHOULD GRANT REVIEW TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE TRIAL COURT'S DENIAL OF PETITIONER'S MOTION TO PRECLUDE THE DEATH PENALTY AS A POSSIBLE PENALTY VIOLATED PETITIONER'S EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

This section of petitioner's petition deals with "death penalty motions" which were filed and heard pretrial. (R-21, R-58, R-64, R-67). Two of these motions, those challenging death qualification and the constitutionality of the Georgia statute providing for the death penalty, were summarily overruled on July 2, 1982. (R-74). The Motion to Exclude the Death Penalty As Cruel and Unusual Punishment was date July 8, 1982, and entered after funds for an evidentiary presentation were denied. (R-77)

The court erred in summarily overruling the Motion Challenging Death Qualification of Jurors during voir dire. That motion attacked this practice on two grounds. First, such a procedure results in a unrepresentative jury by virtue of a substantial segment of the community being excluded from service. Secondly, this procedure results in a jury which is more conviction prone than a non-death qualified jury. The court summarily denied this motion because to grant it would, in its opinion, require it to overrule Witherspoon vs. Illinois, 391 U.S. 510 (1968).

While this Court in Witherspoon did reject a similar argument, it left open the possibility that future scientific data might well support petitioner's argument that death qualification results in a conviction prone jury. Witherspoon, supra, at 518. This court in Witherspoon examined two scientific

studies offered by a petitioner but found them "too tentative and fragmentary" to support his position. (Ibid. at 517) This Court, however, did not foreclose this argument but merely based its decision on "the presently available information" (Ibid. at 518).

The trial court here refused petitioner's request for an evidentiary hearing thereby ruling without having heard any data which petitioner might have had to support his motion. This Court's decision in Witherspoon implicitly requires that petitioner be given an opportunity to present evidence on this issue. The trial court's failure to grant him the opportunity to do so would require reversal.

The trial court, also erred in summarily overruling a Motion to Exclude Death Penalty based upon the unconstitutionality of Georgia Statutes. This motion attacked the Georgia sentencing scheme as unconstitutional in that it allows arbitrary and capricious imposition of the death penalty. The Georgia scheme appears to allow unlimited discretion on the jury's part once they have found at least one statutory aggravating circumstance. In addition, the practice of allowing previous non-capital felony convictions to be entered into the record for consideration by the jury interjects an extraneous factor into the sentencing decision.

The trial court also erred in overruling petitioner's Motion to Exclude the Death Penalty as Cruel and Unusual Punishment and in denying funds for an expert showing. Petitioner contends that the death penalty itself violates the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments as it is cruel and unusual punishment per se. The Eighth Amendment prohibits punishment involving "torture or lingering death". In re Kemmler, 136 U.S. 436 (1890). Death by electrocution may not be an instantaneous death. Indeed, there are instances, such as Ethel Rosenberg, and the recent execution in Alabama, where more than one application of current was required to bring about death. By failing to allow funds to compensate witnesses to present

evidence in this regard, the trial court acted inappropriately, and petitioner's death sentence should be vacated.

The trial court also erred in overruling the Motion to Preclude Death as a Possible Penalty. This motion attacked the prosecutor's decision to seek the death penalty against petitioner while granting a life sentence to both of the co-defendants. The evidence at the trial was clear that all three co-defendants intended to rob and were all aware of the plan to kill witnesses. Petitioner's co-defendants culpability is not significantly different despite the fact that the co-defendants named petitioner as the sole trigger man. When defendants are equally culpable, constitutional principles require that each receive equal treatment. Enmund vs. Florida, 102 U.S. 3368 (1982), handed down the premise that a non-trigger man who never intended the killing to occur should not receive a death sentence for his participation in the crime. Petitioner contends that a reverse application of Enmund would preclude death as a penalty for petitioner in this case. Petitioner's theory is based upon the following logic. Had the State elected to pursue the death penalty against Jones and Jenkins, it would not be precluded under Enmund from doing so since the evidence was clear that the co-defendants accompanied petitioner to the scene with full expectation of what would happen there. Waiver of the death penalty as to Jones and Jenkins was occasioned solely by virtue of their agreement to testify against petitioner at his trial. Under this rationale, petitioner's death sentence must be vacated.

3) THIS COURT SHOULD GRANT REVIEW TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE TRIAL COURT'S DENIAL OF PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR FUNDS FOR INVESTIGATION VIOLATED PETITIONER'S SIXTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

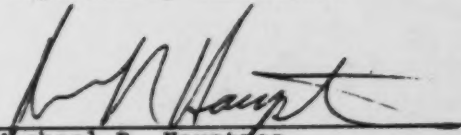
Petitioner filed a Motion for Funds for Investigation on April 30, 1982. (R-34) Somewhat later, a hearing was held for the purposes of allowing petitioner to make out his showing of indigency and need for investigative services in support of this motion. The court withheld ruling on the motion.

Later, the State employed the services of a retired criminal investigator to assist the prosecutor in jury selection. The State was never required to make any kind of showing of need or inability to compensate the investigator from the then existing budget and, indeed, additional funds were authorized by the County for this purpose.

We are then left with a situation where a criminal defendant must make an evidentiary showing in support of his request for funds, but a similar requirement is not made of the State. Such a disparity violates the due process clause which requires a balance of forces between the accused and the State. Wardius vs. Oregon, 412 U.S. 470 (1973). While Wardius dealt with reciprocal discovery rights of the parties, the underlying premise is also applicable in this case: what is fair for one side is fair for the other side. The State should not be allowed funds for extra services without a showing of need for same when the defense is required to make such a showing in support of its requests. The benefits and burdens should be equal and that is what is required by the due process clause. The failure to require the State to show the need while requiring the petitioner to make such a showing violated his Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment rights. The denial of investigative funds could clearly have affected petitioner's investigation of the case and his selection of a jury.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons shown, a writ of certiorari should issue to review the judgment of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael R. Hauptman
Counsel for Petitioner

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APPENDIX

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Par. III to be limited by its antecedents, so that it means opportunities which are the result of trade, commerce, and industry directly financed by an authority. In other words, even if the Project will in fact ultimately tend to provide employment opportunities, we think the relationship between appellees' means and the constitutional end is too speculative and tangential, and we decline to adopt the ultra-liberal interpretation of the constitution which they urge.

For the above reasons, we conclude that appellees' attempted application of OCGA Ch. 36-42 (Code Ann. § 69-1501b et seq.) is unauthorized by Art. IX, Sec. VI, Par. III, and for that reason the agreement between the City and the Authority is unconstitutional. Therefore, the trial court erred in denying summary judgment to appellants and in granting summary judgment to appellees.

Judgment reversed. All the Justices concur, except Clarke, Smith and Gregory, JJ., who dissent.

DECIDED JULY 8, 1983 —

REHEARING DENIED JULY 21, 1983.

Injunction. Fulton Superior Court. Before Judge Eldridge.

Watson, Lawson, Joyner & Banker, Eugene E. Lawson, Allen R. Hirona, for appellants.

William R. McNally, R. Mark Mahler, for appellees.

G. Conley Ingram, Jonathon W. Lowe, Vickie Cheek Lyall, amici curiae.

39612. MINCEY v. THE STATE.

251 Ga. 255

MARSHALL, Presiding Justice.

The defendant, Terry Mincey, was convicted in Bibb County for the offenses of murder, armed robbery and aggravated battery. The death penalty was imposed for the murder. This case was tried and is reviewed under the Unified Appeal Procedure. We affirm.

1. Appellant does not attack the sufficiency of the evidence supporting his convictions. This court, however, has nonetheless reviewed the evidence pursuant to Rule IV (B) (2) of the Unified Appeal Procedure. The evidence can be summarized as follows.

Robert Jones, Timothy Jenkins and the defendant met in the evening of April 12, 1982, and discussed committing a robbery. Each was armed, Jones with a .12 gauge shotgun, Jenkins with a .38 caliber pistol and the defendant with a .380 caliber semi-automatic Llama pistol. After several possibilities were discussed and rejected, the trio drove by a Mini Food Store located at the intersection of Houston Avenue and Hartley Bridge Road in Bibb County. They circled back to the store and parked. The defendant entered the store briefly and returned to the car. He told the others that there were only a female clerk and two teenagers inside and it looked like a good place to rob. He informed the others that he did not plan on leaving any witnesses. When Jenkins protested, the defendant told him, "If you're talking about not wasting nobody, you're in the wrong . . . car." They waited, hoping the kids would leave. When, after a few minutes, they did not, the defendant reentered the store. Jenkins positioned himself outside, between the ice machine and the dumpster. Jones, the driver, stayed in the car.

Fourteen-year-old Mischell Cook and her 15-year-old brother, "Bubba," were

APPENDIX A

le the store, visiting the cashier, Mrs. Riggs. When the defendant entered the e, they recognized him as the same young white male who had entered the store e 15 minutes previously. He told Mrs. Riggs to "put the money in the bag" and t the kids to go to the car.

enkins, standing outside, saw two teenagers walk out of the store just as a e-up truck pulled up to the gas pumps. The driver, Russell Peterman, got out t began to fill his tank. Meanwhile, Mrs. Riggs, followed by the defendant, ed the store. When the defendant saw Peterman at the gas pumps, he turned s. Riggs over to Jenkins and walked toward the pumps.

eterman testified that as he was pumping gas, he was confronted by a young te man with a pistol in his hand, who said, "come go with me." Peterman was uprised that he failed to respond. The man said, "You think I'm joking, don't t." Then he shot Peterman in the chest. Peterman fell to the ground, and the n walked over and shot him in the face.

When this happened, Jenkins proceeded toward the getaway car and the agers ran. Jones, sitting in the car, saw Mrs. Riggs run after them, but she ran late. The defendant came back across the parking lot and fired at her. Jones saw s. Riggs grab her neck and fall behind the dumpster. The defendant walked ind the dumpster and bent down. Jones heard a second shot.

The defendant ran to the car, got in, and they left. They counted the money taken in the store — about \$40. Jones asked if the victims were dead. The defendant ivered, "Yes, they are dead. I know they are dead, I shot both of them." Then defendant asked where the kids were. When he found out they had escaped, he d, "Well, I just got a death sentence."

Jones' car was a multi-colored Mustang with mag wheels, no hood, one working dlight and a loud muffler. When police arrived at the scene a few minutes after robbery, witnesses were able to describe the car and identify its owner. Jones s soon located and placed under arrest. After he named the defendant as a rticipant, officers went to the defendant's residence and placed him under arrest. e defendant thereafter admitted to law enforcement officers that he had shot erman and Mrs. Riggs.

Mrs. Riggs died. An autopsy revealed that she had been shot twice. One bullet ered her left ear, went through her head, and lodged in her right cheek. This tlet was recovered. The other entered the right side of her head through the iporal bone (driving bone fragments into her brain), deflected, and exited on the ht side of her neck. This bullet, which inflicted the fatal wound, was not overed.

Peterman lived. One bullet entered his chest and lodged in a muscle close to his ne, where it remains. The other bullet entered the left side of his head and velled across his face. Two weeks after he was shot, his condition had stabilized ficiently that this wound could be operated on. The bullet was removed from der his right eyebrow. His left optic nerve was damaged by the passage of the tlet and he is now totally blind in his left eye. His right eye suffered severe retinal mage and has a drooping upper lid, which may or may not eventually elevate on own. With the lid lifted out of the way, his right eye has approximately 40% of original vision.

A .380 Llama pistol was recovered from the defendant's trailer. Ballistics amination showed it to be the pistol which had fired the bullets recovered from

Peterman and Mrs. Riggs.

The evidence presented was more than sufficient to support the verdicts of guilty. *Jackson v. Virginia*, 443 U. S. 307 (99 SC 2781, 61 LE2d 560) (1979).

2. The defendant filed a pre-trial "motion challenging death qualification of jurors during voir dire." In the motion, the defendant alleged that the practice of excusing, for cause, potential jurors who are unalterably opposed to the death penalty denies a defendant his right to a jury drawn from a fair cross-section of the community, results in a jury more likely to convict than one not "death-qualified," and violates a defendant's right to equal protection because death qualification only occurs in death penalty cases. No evidence was presented on this motion. At a pre-trial motion hearing conducted pursuant to Rule 11 (B) of the Unified Appeal Procedure, the court announced, before any evidence was proffered on behalf of this motion, that it was denied.

The defendant does not contend that his Sixth Amendment fair-cross-section challenge or his equal-protection challenge to the practice of death qualification of jurors presented any factual questions requiring the presentation of evidence. He contends, however, that *Witherspoon v. Illinois*, 391 U. S. 510 (88 SC 1770, 20 LE2d 776) (1968), impliedly entitles him to an evidentiary hearing with regard to his contention that death-qualified juries are more likely to convict than non-death-qualified juries.¹ The failure of the court to conduct such an evidentiary hearing, appellant argues, was reversible error.

We cannot agree. In the first place, had the court erred by refusing to conduct an evidentiary hearing, the error could be cured by a remand for an evidentiary hearing. Only if the defendant prevailed at that hearing (an unlikely event, as will hereinafter be demonstrated) would reversal be required. Second, in view of the defendant's failure to proffer any evidence in support of this motion, it is less than clear that an evidentiary hearing was, in fact, denied. Most importantly, had the defendant been allowed to present evidence that death-qualified juries are more likely to convict than non-death-qualified juries, and had this evidence "supplied" the persuasiveness found lacking by the Supreme Court and by many other courts, both federal and state, since *Witherspoon*,² the defendant still would not have been entitled to the relief sought. *Smith v. Balkcom*, 660 F2d 573, 578 (5th Cir. 1981); *Spinkellink v. Wainwright*, 578 F2d 582 (5th Cir. 1978). In each of these cases, the Fifth Circuit assumed, without deciding, that a death-qualified jury is more likely to convict than a non-death-qualified jury and held that, nonetheless, the practice of excluding for cause those potential jurors so unequivocally opposed to the death

¹ The United States Supreme Court rejected *Witherspoon's* argument "that death-qualified jurors are partial to the prosecution on the issue of guilt or innocence." 391 U. S., *supra*, at 517. "The data adduced by the prisoner," the court stated, "are too tentative and fragmentary to establish that jurors not opposed to the death penalty tend to favor the prosecution in the determination of guilt." *Ibid.* The court noted, however, that "a defendant convicted by such a jury in some future case might still attempt to establish that the jury was less than neutral with respect to guilt. If he were to succeed in that effort, the question would then arise whether the State's interest in submitting the penalty issue to a jury capable of imposing capital punishment may be vindicated at the expense of the defendant's interest in a completely fair determination of guilt or innocence." 391 U. S. at 520 (n. 18). This language is the basis for the defendant's claim of entitlement to an evidentiary hearing. However, as noted in *Smith v. Balkcom*, *infra*, "[t]his passage can hardly be construed as a mandate that . . . courts hold such a hearing . . ." 660 F2d at 578 (n. 10).

APPENDIX A

sity that they would automatically vote against it, no matter what the evidence he reveal, does not deny a defendant his constitutional right to an impartial

as the state suggests, "[t]he attack upon the death qualification of jurors as luring conviction-prone juries is past the stage of old hat, and has now become ely a part of the familiar repertoire of death defendants, a sort of 'golden oldie' leath penalty attacks." A plethora of United States Supreme Court, Fifth out and Georgia cases have upheld the practice of excusing jurors who are so iterably opposed to the death penalty that they could never impose it in any . The trial court did not err by summarily overruling the defendant's challenge his practice. The defendant's second enumeration of error is meritless.

The trial court did not err by overruling the defendant's challenge to the sitionality of Georgia statutes relating to the imposition of the death penalty. argues that Georgia law improperly allows the state to prove non-capital ries in aggravation during the sentencing phase of the trial and gives too much etion to the jury. Citing our response to a question certified to us by the United es Supreme Court (*Zani v. Stephens*, 250 Ga. 97 (297 SE2d 1) (1982)), the endant contends that the premises underlying our statutory scheme for the osition of the death penalty will not withstand constitutional scrutiny. Since defendant submitted his brief, however, the United States Supreme Court has dved these contentions adversely to the defendant. *Zani v. Stephens*, — U. S. — (103 SC 2733, 77 LE2d 235) (1983). Thus, the defendant's third enumer- on of error is meritless.

6. Prior to trial, the defendant sought funds to pay for the services of expert nesses to testify on behalf of his challenge to electrocution as a means to carry the death penalty. The trial court refused to supply these funds and sequently overruled the challenge.

We have previously rejected contentions that electrocution is a cruel and unusual ishment. *Nelson v. State*, 247 Ga. 172 (18) (274 SE2d 317) (1981); *Collier v. te*, 244 Ga. 553 (18) (261 SE2d 364) (1979). The trial court did not abuse its etion by refusing to fund a renewed challenge to the Georgia method of rying out death sentences. *Wilson v. State*, 250 Ga. 630 (2 c) (300 SE2d 640) '83), or by overruling the challenge.

7. An attorney was appointed for the defendant on April 13, 1982, the day after offense. Some time prior to May 6, an additional attorney was appointed for the endant. On May 6, the court heard the defendant's motion for investigative stance. The motion alleged only a general necessity for assistance to interview nesses. The trial court noted that the defendant was represented by two rneys and denied the motion. The court did state, however, that its denial was final and the motion could be renewed any time the defendant could nstrate a need for assistance. The defendant made no further requests for estigative assistance. The trial began in the latter part of August 1982. In these circumstances, the court's refusal to award funds for investigative stance was not an abuse of discretion. *Wilson v. State*, supra, (2 b); *Rivers v. te*, 250 Ga. 303 (5) (298 SE2d 1) (1982). The defendant's eleventh enumeration error is meritless.

8. The defendant's sixth, seventh and eighth enumerations of error relate to the ality of his arrest and the subsequent custodial interrogation and search of the

defendant's trailer.

The events leading up to the arrest of the defendant began, for our purposes, shortly after 11:00 p.m. with the arrival of law enforcement officers at the crime scene. Investigators soon obtained a description of the getaway vehicle and ascertained that Jones was its owner. Jones was located and arrested at 2:30 a.m. As he was being transported to the Law Enforcement Center in Bibb County, Jones admitted his part in the robbery and named the defendant as another participant. This information was relayed to the Bibb County sheriff's office. Upon his arrival at the LEC, Jones was questioned. By 4:00 a.m., he had given a detailed statement consistent with information that had been obtained from other witnesses, including Peterman and the two teenagers in the store. In addition, officers obtained from Jones a description of the defendant's motorcycle and his telephone number, which they traced to Hill-N-Dale trailer park. At 4:30 a.m., Macon police officer Mack Brown located the defendant's trailer. Soon afterward, other officers began to arrive.

While they were watching the trailer, a woman came out. She identified herself to the officers as the defendant's mother, Mrs. Mincry, and told them she was going next door to see a friend. When asked if the defendant was inside, she answered that he was and she thought he was asleep. She told the officers which bedroom she thought he was in.

The sheriff arrived at approximately 4:45 or 4:50 a.m. He talked briefly with Officer Brown, who told him that the defendant was inside and that Mrs. Mincry had gone next door. At the sheriff's suggestion, Brown went to the neighbor's trailer and requested Mrs. Mincry's assistance in calling her son. She dialed the number and, when the defendant answered, gave the telephone to Brown. Then, according to Brown, "I . . . asked him to come outside. [The defendant] asked me why I wanted him to come outside and I told him he had become a suspect in a homicide and an armed robbery, and to please come on out right now." The defendant did, and was arrested in his front yard at 4:56 a.m.

After the arrest, another officer entered the trailer to see if anyone else was there. This officer testified that he did not remain inside the trailer for over a minute. No further search was conducted at this time. Later in the day, a search warrant was obtained and the trailer searched. With Mrs. Mincry's assistance, the defendant's .380 Llama pistol was found under the bathroom sink.

The defendant contends that the warrantless arrest was illegal and that his custodial statements and the pistol were fruits of the illegal arrest. He further contends that his custodial statements were not voluntary.

(a) The defendant concedes that his arresting officers had probable cause to make the arrest. We agree. At the time of the arrest, "the facts and circumstances within the knowledge of the arresting officers and of which they had reasonably trustworthy information were sufficient to warrant a prudent man in believing that the accused had committed . . . an offense. [C*it.*] *Durden v. State*, 250 Ga. 325, 326 (297 SE2d 237) (1982). The defendant contends that the arrest was nonetheless illegal because the requirements of OCGA § 17-4-20 (a) (Code Ann. § 27-207) (pertaining to warrantless arrests) were not met. This contention is answered adversely to the defendant by *Durden v. State*, *supra*, wherein we held that an arrest, "legal under federal law [is] legal under state law." *Id.* at 327.

The question, then, not really addressed by the defendant, is whether his arrest

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was legal under federal law. In *United States v. Watson*, 423 U.S. 411 (96 SC 820, 46 LE2d 598) (1976), the United States Supreme Court upheld a warrantless arrest in a public place where the arresting officer had probable cause to believe the suspect was a felon. However, the court subsequently held that the Fourth Amendment "prohibits the police from making a warrantless and nonconsensual entry into a suspect's home in order to make a routine felony arrest." *Payton v. New York*, 445 U.S. 573, 576 (100 SC 1371, 63 LE2d 639) (1980). Thus, since *Payton*, a warrantless arrest may be made inside a suspect's home only with his consent or under exigent circumstances.

We need not determine whether exigent circumstances existed. The defendant was telephonically requested to exit his home and voluntarily did so. His arrest, outside his home, by officers who had probable cause to believe that he had participated in an armed robbery and had murdered one person and severely injured another, was constitutionally valid. See *United States v. Ruiz-Altschiller*, 694 F2d 1104 (11 A) (8th Cir. 1982); *United States v. Costa*, 691 F2d 1358 (11) (11th Cir. 1982); *United States v. Johnson*, 626 F2d 753, 755-757 (9th Cir. 1980).

(b) The defendant does not attack the validity of the search warrant. His only contention regarding the search is that it was the product of an illegal arrest and that the evidence obtained in the search should therefore have been suppressed. Since we have held that the arrest was not illegal, this contention is meritless. Nor was the search warrant a "fruit" of the brief entry of appellant's trailer after his arrest, assuming, arguendo, that this entry was illegal. *Wong Sun v. United States*, 371 U.S. 471 (83 SC 407, 9 LE2d 441) (1963).

(c) After hearing the evidence, the trial court found that the defendant had been advised several times of his rights under *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (86 SC 1602, 16 LE2d 694) (1966), that he understood those rights, that he had freely and voluntarily waived those rights, and that his subsequent statements were freely and voluntarily made. "These determinations by the trial court were not clearly erroneous and we must therefore accept them. *Rose v. State*, 249 Ga. 628 (2) (292 SE2d 678) (1982)." *Brown v. State*, 250 Ga. 66, 75 (8) (295 SE2d 727) (1982).

7. The defendant's ninth and tenth enumerations of error relate to the composition of his grand and traverse juries. He contends that young people between 18 and 23 years of age are underrepresented on Bibb County grand and traverse juries.

To prevail on a challenge to jury composition under equal-protection doctrine, Sixth Amendment doctrine, or under OCGA § 15-12-40 (Code Ann. § 59-106), a defendant "must establish prima facie that a distinct and identifiable group in the community is substantially underrepresented on the jury venire being challenged." *Wilson v. State*, 250 Ga., supra, at 635 (3 a). Appellant has failed to demonstrate that persons between the ages of 18 and 23 constitute a "distinct and identifiable group in the community." See, e.g., *Bowen v. State*, 244 Ga. 495 (4) (260 SE2d 855) (1979). The defendant's ninth and tenth enumerations of error are meritless.

8. In enumerations of error 14 through 18, the defendant contends that the trial court erroneously excused five jurors in violation of *Witherspoon v. Illinois*, supra. The excusal of three of these jurors requires no extended discussion. These three prospective jurors clearly and unambiguously stated that they would vote against the death penalty regardless of what transpired at trial. The defendant attempted to rehabilitate these jurors by asking whether or not they could "consider" the

death penalty. "It is not sufficient that the juror be willing to 'consider' the death penalty if he or she is committed to automatically vote against the death penalty after having 'considered' it." *Coffield v. State*, 247 Ga. 98, 103 (2) (274 SE2d 530) (1981). These jurors were so committed and their excusal was not error.

The other two prospective jurors were Ms. Leckie and Mr. Pate.

(a) In response to questioning by the assistant district attorney and the court, Ms. Leckie unambiguously stated that she was conscientiously opposed to the death penalty and had made up her mind prior to trial to vote against the death penalty regardless of the facts and circumstances that might be presented at trial. In response to further questioning by counsel for the defendant, Ms. Leckie indicated she could consider the death penalty. The court then asked her if she was saying "that there are circumstances under which you could return a verdict of death?" She replied, "I suppose only if God told me to, and I have been talked to by God." The court asked, "Ms. Leckie, would your conscience ever allow you to return a death penalty in any case?" She answered, "Only under that circumstance."

The trial court, after consideration, granted the state's challenge for cause. The court reasoned: "Her conscience now says that she can't vote ever for the death penalty. The question is not whether at some point in the future God may speak to her and say, 'Your conscience should now favor the death penalty.' The question is whether under the evidence in this case — under any state of the evidence — and whether under the charge of the court she could return the death penalty, and I think she said the answer was no... [S]he said that... her conscientious objection, would have to disappear for a reason other than any evidence that might appear and the charge of the court, and legally I believe that does not satisfy the criteria... I excuse her for cause."

The record supports the trial court's interpretation of Ms. Leckie's responses, and we agree with the court's reasoning. We find no error in the court's excusal of Ms. Leckie.

(b) In response to the questions of the assistant district attorney, Mr. Pate stated that if the defendant were found guilty, he could impose the death penalty. Then the following transpired:

"MR. THORPE [for the state]: All right, sir. So then you're not opposed to capital punishment, is that correct?"

"JUROR: Not in that particular instance."

"MR. THORPE: Well —"

"JUROR: Not if it's a sentence of life imprisonment."

Following this indication that the juror did not understand the meaning of the phrase, "capital punishment," the assistant district attorney asked Mr. Pate several times if he could under any circumstances vote for the "electric chair." The juror stated unequivocally that he did not believe in the electric chair and would not under any circumstances vote for it.

Then the defendant's attorney questioned Mr. Pate, and the voir dire ended as follows:

"MR. COOK [for the defendant]: I want you to imagine yourself on a jury and tell us if there is any case, however bad, that you can think of where you would consider voting for the death penalty?"

"JUROR: If it was life in prison, I could."

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"MR. COOK: No, we're talking about voting for the death penalty.

"JUROR: No, sir."

The state challenged the juror. The court ruled, "I think it's obvious that Mr. Pate would never consider anything other than life imprisonment. He is excused for cause." We find no error.

9. In his thirteenth enumeration, the defendant contends that the trial court erred by excusing juror Dixon for cause.

In response to the statutory voir dire questions, see OCGA § 15-12-164 (Code Ann. §§ 59-806, 59-807), Ms. Dixon stated that she had known the defendant's parents for years, that at one time the defendant's father had been the pastor of her church, and that she did not feel that she could be a fair and impartial juror. She said, "I know the parents and I know them well [and] I do not wish to be in a position that I'm in now." She asked to be dismissed. Upon further questioning by the defendant's attorney, she unequivocally stated that if she were selected as a juror she could not decide the case based upon the evidence and the law and that under no circumstances could she return a verdict of guilty.

The trial court did not err by granting the state's challenge to this juror. Compare *Jordan v. State*, 247 Ga. 328 (6) (276 SE2d 224) (1981).

10. In enumerations of error 12 and 19, the defendant contends that the trial court erred when it refused to excuse two potential jurors because of their predisposition to impose the death penalty. We find no error. Both jurors stated that their preconceived notions could be laid aside and that they would wait until the evidence was presented to decide what sentence might be appropriate. They both said they could fairly consider both possible sentences for the defendant. It is clear from their answers that neither juror was committed to automatically vote for the death penalty if the defendant was convicted. Thus, the trial court was not required to excuse them for cause, and these two enumerations of error are without merit.

11. In his twentieth enumeration, the defendant contends that the trial court erred by admitting, over objection, a photograph of the deceased, Mrs. Riggs, which showed her and her two children. The defendant contends that the inclusion of the children in the photograph rendered it inflammatory.

When the defendant objected to the photograph, the district attorney responded that he needed to prove the identity of the victim and that the jury could compare this picture with the autopsy photographs and conclude that the deceased was in fact Mrs. Riggs. He informed the court that he preferred not to ask Mr. Riggs to identify his wife from the autopsy pictures and that there were no pictures available which showed Mrs. Riggs in life that did not also show her children.

The rule announced in *Brown v. State*, 250 Ga. 862 (5) (302 SE2d 347) (1983), is inapplicable here. Thus, the defendant's objection is answered by *Raney v. State*, 250 Ga. 455, 456 (1) (298 SE2d 503) (1983), wherein we held: "Photographs which are relevant to any issue in the case are admissible even though they may have an effect upon the jury."

12. In his twenty-first enumeration, the defendant contends that the trial court erred by admitting hearsay evidence to explain conduct when that conduct was not in issue.

A police officer was allowed to testify over objection that Jones admitted to him

that, "he was part of the robbery and that... Terry Mincey [was]... involved; and that Terry Mincey had been the triggerman..." This testimony was offered to explain why the defendant was later arrested. The trial court instructed the jury that the officer's testimony was not admissible to prove the truth of what Jones told the officer, but only to explain why the officer might have taken some action as a result of having been told this. See OCGA § 24-3-2 (Code Ann. § 38-302).

In *Momon v. State*, 249 Ga. 865, 867 (294 SE2d 482) (1982), this court adopted the following rule: "When, in a legal investigation, the conduct and motives of the actor are matters concerning which the truth must be found (i.e., are relevant to the issues on trial), then information, conversations, letters and replies, and similar evidence known to the actor are admissible to explain the actor's conduct. [Cite.] But where the conduct and motives of the actor are not matters concerning which the truth must be found (i.e., are irrelevant to the issues on trial) then the information, etc., on which he or she acted shall not be admissible under [OCGA § 24-3-2 (Code Ann. § 38-302)]."

Whether it is necessary for the state to explain why a defendant was arrested at the time, the place and under the circumstances shown, depends upon the facts of the particular case. See *Gaskins v. State*, 250 Ga. 386 (297 SE2d 729) (1982). In this case, the defendant made certain admissions following an arrest which he later contended was illegal. See Division 6, ante. Although the court found the custodial statements to have been voluntarily made, there remained "a question for the jury to determine on conflicting evidence whether the alleged [statements were] freely and voluntarily made." *Cofield v. State*, 247 Ga. 98, supra, at 109 (citing *Sims v. Georgia*, 385 U.S. 538 (87 SC 639, 17 LE2d 593) (1967)). In these circumstances, we cannot say that the conduct and motives of the officer to whom Jones made a statement were not "matters concerning which the truth must be found." Hence, the trial court did not err by allowing the officer to testify as to Jones' statements in order to explain his subsequent conduct.

In any event, since the testimony was later fully corroborated by the testimony of Jones himself, any error was clearly harmless. *Gaskins v. State*, supra.

13. Co-defendants Jones and Jenkins testified at the defendant's trial. They were extensively cross-examined by the defendant concerning the terms of their plea bargains.¹ For example, the defendant asked Jenkins, "You know the state can take into consideration your testimony here today in recommending a sentence to the court on the battery charge, don't you? ... And you are here today testifying against [the defendant] to fulfill your end of the plea bargain, aren't you?" He asked Jones, "Is that why you are here today testifying, Mr. Jones, to avoid the without-parole provision of the Habitual Offender Statute?"

The state's response to this line of questioning was to show that these witnesses had given statements, consistent with their trial testimony, before any discussions had taken place with regard to entering pleas of guilty. In his twenty-second and twenty-third enumerations of error, the defendant contends

¹ Jones had pled guilty to murder, armed robbery and aggravated battery. He received a life sentence for the murder and 10 years for the aggravated battery. At the time of the trial, he had not been sentenced for the armed robbery. The state dropped the murder charge against Jenkins. He pled guilty on the other two counts, received a life sentence for the armed robbery and had not been sentenced for the aggravated battery.

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that the court erred in allowing these references to prior consistent statements. We find no error. "If an attempt be made to discredit a witness on the ground that his testimony is given under the influence of some motive prompting him to make a false or colored statement, he may be allowed to show in reply that he made similar declarations at a time when the motive imputed to him did not exist." [Cits.] *Fuller v. State*, 197 Ga. 714, 718 (2) (30 SE2d 608) (1944). See also, *Jones v. State*, 243 Ga. 820 (2) (256 SE2d 907) (1979).

14. In his twenty-fourth enumeration of error, the defendant complains of the emphasized portion of the following argument by the district attorney occurring during the guilt-innocence phase of the trial:

"... Have we done anything wrong? Is it wrong to encourage people who see a murder to come into court and tell the truth? Now, Mr. Daniel has brought out what the sentences are. Mr. Jones has been sentenced to life. That's an irrevocable and final sentence. He has been sentenced to 10 years consecutive to that. That's a final and irrevocable sentence. But on the other count, his sentence is open. And I'm sure Mr. Jones hopes that by the testimony he gave yesterday that the judge, who controls his final sentence, will give him some consideration for coming in here and telling the truth. Anything wrong with that?"

"Is there anything wrong with a judge or a district attorney making a recommendation that would say that at least on the third count of these three counts a man who comes in and tells the truth should get somewhat better treatment than a man who refused to tell the truth? Nothing sinister about that — unless, unless in an effort to improve their own positions Jones and Jenkins came in here and told something different, changed their stories to come in here and make some deal. Now, I would agree with Mr. Daniel. So you have to ask yourself the question: Did Jones and Jenkins change their stories and come in here and make accusations against this poor man to make themselves a deal? . . ."

The defendant concedes that the argument was not a direct reference to the defendant's failure to testify, but contends that it was improper because it might have been construed as such by the jury. See *Ranger v. State*, 249 Ga. 315 (3) (290 SE2d 63) (1982). The defendant, however, failed to interpose a timely objection to the argument; thus, this court has nothing to review. *Rivers v. State*, 250 Ga., supra, at 308 (7); *McAllister v. State*, 231 Ga. 368 (1) (202 SE2d 54) (1973).

15. The defendant contends, in his twenty-fifth enumeration, that the trial court erred by allowing the state to conduct an improper redirect examination of a witness.

"Redirect examination and recross are strictly speaking, not for the purpose of introducing new matter, but the judge in his discretion may permit the questioner to inquire about something which he should have asked about during an earlier step but which was overlooked." Green, Ga. Law of Evidence 317, Witnesses, § 126, [cits.]. *Goodrum v. State*, 158 Ga. App. 602 (2) (281 SE2d 254) (1981). "The trial judge, in his discretion, found the evidence brought in on re-direct examination to be relevant and admissible. Absent a showing of gross abuse of discretion, we find no error. [Cits.]" *Maher v. State*, 239 Ga. 305, 306 (2) (236 SE2d 647) (1977).

16. In his twenty-sixth enumeration of error, the defendant complains that the state's pre-trial discussions with three potential defense witnesses diminished their willingness to testify in mitigation during the sentencing phase of the trial. The

state's misconduct, the defendant contends, and the resulting "chilling effect" on these potential witnesses, amounted to "outrageous prosecutorial overreaching," requiring a retrial as to sentence. Evidence was presented on behalf of this contention at the defendant's motion for new trial.

(a) Gert Willis, who had three forgery convictions, was a former girl friend of the defendant. She was interviewed prior to trial by investigators from the district attorney's office and later by the district attorney and one of his assistants. At this interview, Ms. Willis told the prosecutors: (1) that, when the defendant was about to be released from prison, he asked her to bring him a gun, because he wanted her to help him rob a bank in Pearson, Georgia; (2) that he had asked her to help him rob her own mother and father; (3) that he once broke her jaw, because she put the wrong dressing on his salad; (4) that the defendant had told her that, as a child, he liked to set cats on fire and to bury them up to their necks and run over them with a lawn mower; and (5) that the defendant felt he had made a mistake in the past by leaving witnesses behind and had said that, in the future, when he committed an armed robbery, he would kill all the witnesses, including his co-robbers.

Ms. Willis testified at the hearing on the motion for new trial that this interview lasted until 4:00 p.m., causing her to miss a scheduled appointment with defense attorney Rick Cook. She did, however, talk to Cook's partner, John Schaffer, to whom she was hostile, because the assistant district attorney had characterized Cook as a "smooth talker" who would try to convince her to "go for the defense."

Assistant district attorney Thorpe testified that he told Ms. Willis that she could talk to Mr. Cook if she wanted to, but that she did not have to. If she did talk to him, she should tell him the truth and not lie as she did when she first talked to investigators from the district attorney's office.

Defense attorney Cook testified that Ms. Willis had made some statements to Schaffer that were inconsistent with what she had told Cook in several pre-trial telephone conversations and in one face-to-face conversation prior to the commencement of the sentencing phase of the trial. Cook testified that he had checked with other persons who knew Ms. Willis, and, from these conversations, from his own discussions with Ms. Willis and from Schaffer's report of his interview with her, had concluded that she was unstable. He decided not to use her as a witness. (The state did not use her either.)

The only thing to which Ms. Willis might have testified in mitigation was her observation that the defendant had undergone a personality change after a motorcycle accident in 1980. We note that the defendant committed three armed robberies in 1977, three years prior to his motorcycle accident. On one of these occasions, a strange car pulled into the parking lot of the convenience store being robbed. The defendant fired several shots at it, later observing that the driver "didn't have any business out that time of night, anyway."

We agree with the trial court that no prosecutorial misconduct was shown as to this witness and that, in any event, her testimony would have been more harmful than helpful.

(b) Prior to trial, Cassie Mitchell and her husband, Jessie James Mitchell, were asked to come to the district attorney's office by assistant district attorney Thorpe. Thorpe had talked to Cassie earlier that day and she had been cooperative. When she returned with her husband, Jessie informed Thorpe that he had been convicted of statutory rape and did not intend to help "the law." Thorpe asked him if he

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would refuse to help even if he had relevant evidence that would tend to prove that the defendant was guilty of murder. Jessie answered that he would not tell Thorpe anything unless it would help the defendant. Thorpe, at this point, gave Jessie a "ten-minute opening-statement-type summary of the evidence" against the defendant, describing, among other things, how Mrs. Riggs had been killed, and mentioning that she had left small children behind. Thorpe showed Jessie some of the crime-scene photographs.

Jessie and Cassie both testified that this presentation had an effect on them. Jessie had previously doubted that the defendant was guilty. He testified that, after Thorpe's presentation, he became convinced of the defendant's guilt and was no longer willing to help the defendant avoid the death penalty. He cooperated with Thorpe and confirmed that he and Cassie had gone to see the defendant in jail and asked him why he "did it," and that the defendant's only response had been, "Acid City." Cassie testified that, after she heard Thorpe's presentation, she thought the defendant "should burn."

Jessie testified at the hearing on the defendant's motion for new trial that, if he had been called as a defense witness at the sentencing phase of the trial, he could have testified that the defendant had told him to quit drinking and get a job, and that the defendant had good character. Defense attorney Cook conceded that he did not know whether he would have used Jessie as a defense witness.

Cassie testified that, after she heard that the defendant received the death penalty, she felt guilty that she had not contacted the defense prior to trial and had not testified on the defendant's behalf. She testified that his girlfriend, Geri Willis, had told a lot of lies and had hurt the defendant. She had written bad checks "against him" and had lied about a job opportunity in Virginia. When Cassie had been pregnant and her husband was in prison, the defendant had tried to help her and had loaned her some of his mother's clothes, bedspreads and silverware (without his mother's knowledge). She once talked to the defendant about an illegitimate child that might have been the defendant's. The defendant told her, "Well, if you see [the mother] and if she thinks I'm the father of that child, you tell her that I'll help support it, because one thing I am, you know, I'm a man, I'm going to support my children." Cassie suggested that there were two types of ex-convicts: those who were going back to prison, and those who were "going to make it." She said, "Terry [Mincey] was going to make it. He had that attitude, it was get out, let's get a job, let's be somebody, let's hold our heads up, let's start all over."

The defendant contends that only because of Thorpe's dramatic presentation was Cassie unwilling to come forward as a defense witness prior to trial. The record suggests otherwise.

Geri Willis called Cassie prior to trial and told her that the defendant had threatened to kill Cassie if she testified against him. Cassie thereafter contacted Thorpe and told him she wanted no part of the case; she was afraid of the defendant. There had been, moreover, an earlier incident in which the defendant had come to Cassie's place of employment brandishing a knife. She left by the back door and went to a restaurant. An hour or so later, the defendant appeared at the restaurant, still brandishing the knife, threatening to use it (against whom, the record is not clear). In the words of Thorpe, "When she told that incident to me, it was something which had scared the fool out of her."

Cassie testified, in addition, that she had been afraid that her testimony would reveal that she had been associating with a convicted felon in violation of the terms of her probation. She had felt, moreover, that she would not be a good character witness because of her prior record of convictions of several forgeries and a theft by taking.

The defendant insists that Cassie's testimony would have been sufficiently helpful, that he would have used her as a defense witness had she not been rendered unavailable by prosecutorial misconduct. We conclude that, whether or not Cassie's testimony would have benefited the defendant's case, her absence was not the result of prosecutorial misconduct.

The trial court found that assistant district attorney Thorpe committed no impropriety when he attempted, in Cassie's presence, to persuade Jessie to cooperate by telling him the facts of the case and by emphasizing the strength of the evidence against the defendant. We agree with this finding. The record does not suggest that anything Thorpe told Jessie was untrue. Any "chilling effect" in this regard was simply a natural consequence of the antipathy evoked by the facts of the crime. The record, moreover, shows that Cassie had additional reasons for not wanting to get involved in the case, and these reasons had nothing to do with any conduct, or misconduct, on the part of anyone in the district attorney's office.

The trial court further found that no one in the district attorney's office ever told Cassie or Jessie that they could not testify for the defense or that they should not cooperate with the defense. Nor, the trial court found, did anyone in the district attorney's office threaten Cassie regarding her probationary status. These findings are supported by the record.

The record simply does not support the defendant's claim of prosecutorial overreaching, and the defendant's twenty-sixth enumeration of error is meritless.

17 In his twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth enumerations of error, the defendant contends that, although he made a timely and sufficiently specific request for the defendant's statements under OCGA § 17-7-210 (Code Ann. § 27-1302), the state failed in two instances to supply the defendant with statements which were thereafter used at trial.

(a) During the guilt-innocence phase of the trial, co-defendant Jenkins testified that, while he and the defendant were in custody following their arrest for the crime on trial, the defendant told Jenkins, "Look, if anybody asks you, I was wired out on acid. I'm going to try and get an insanity plea."

No objection was interposed to this testimony. This procedural default precludes further review of Jenkins' testimony. *Rivers v. State*, 250 Ga. 303, *supra*, (7).

(b) Durwood Shores testified, at the sentencing phase of the trial, that after he and the defendant got "locked up" for an armed robbery in 1977, the defendant said that if he ever committed another one, he would not leave any witnesses. The defendant was not notified, prior to trial, that this statement would be introduced in aggravation by the state. The defendant's only objection to this testimony, at trial, was that it was not "proper redirect." On appeal, he contends that admission of this testimony was error under OCGA § 17-7-210 (Code Ann. § 27-1302).

We need not determine if OCGA § 17-7-210 (Code Ann. § 27-1302) requires the state, upon timely demand, to provide the defense with custodial statements made by the defendant years before he committed the crime for which he is on trial.

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See *Walraven v. State*, 250 Ga. 401 (2) (297 SE2d 278) (1982). Nor need we determine the applicability of OCGA § 17-10-2 (a) (Code Ann. § 27-2503) (which provides "that only such evidence in aggravation as the state has made known to the defendant prior to his trial shall be admissible"). Assuming that the proffered testimony was subject to exclusion, on proper objection, under either of the above Code sections, since no such objection was made, we need only determine whether the testimony rendered the defendant's death sentence invalid on the basis that it was imposed under the influence of passion, prejudice, or other arbitrary factor. OCGA § 17-10-30 (c) (1) (Code Ann. § 27-2534 (1)). We conclude that Shores' testimony did not have that effect. Testimony that the defendant spoke to Shores of leaving no witnesses, adds nothing inflammatory to a record that includes testimony from both of his co-defendants that, on the night of the armed robbery, the defendant stated that he did not intend to leave any witnesses.

18. In his twenty-ninth enumeration of error, the defendant contends that the trial court should have granted his motion for new trial as to sentence, based on newly discovered evidence.

Prior to and for some time after the defendant's trial, Jones was confined in the Houston County jail, in a "solitary" section of the jail containing nine cells. Also confined in this section of the Houston County jail were William Durden, Ellis Wayne Felker and Charles Wayne Radford, all of whom were being held on murder charges. At the hearing on the defendant's motion, these three fellow prisoners testified that Jones had bragged to them that Jones and not the defendant had shot Pieterman.

Specifically, Jones had stated to his fellow prisoners that he and the defendant had entered the store and confronted Mrs. Riggs, who was alone. Jones left the store to confront Pieterman and, when Pieterman reached for his gun, shot him twice. Mrs. Riggs was shot by the defendant.

The testimony of Felker, Durden and Radford was corroborated by Jones, who admitted at the hearing that he had told his fellow prisoners the foregoing story. He testified, however, that it was not true, and that, just as he had testified at trial, the defendant had shot both Mrs. Riggs and Pieterman. When asked why he told his fellow prisoners otherwise, he explained that they were all charged with violent crimes and inclined to regard disfavorably his cooperation with the state in a murder case, and that he therefore made false statements to them for his own protection, to make him "look big in front of them."

It is undisputed that neither the prosecution nor the defense was aware until late November 1982 (some three months after the trial), that Jones had made extrajudicial statements which were inconsistent with his trial testimony. The state does not contend that the defendant's attorneys lacked diligence by failing to discover these inconsistent statements, and concedes that these statements would have been admissible as substantive evidence under the rule announced in *Gibbons v. State*, 248 Ga. 858 (286 SE2d 717) (1982).

The defendant contends that, since the evidence presented at trial showed that the defendant shot both victims, the newly discovered evidence, which tends to show that he only shot one, might have persuaded the jury not to impose the death penalty. Thus, the defendant contends, he is entitled to a new trial as to sentence.

Pretermitted any question whether the "newly discovered" evidence is, in fact,

newly discovered,¹ we conclude that it is not of such materiality as to require a new trial. See *Emmett v. State*, 232 Ga. 110, 117 (205 SE2d 231) (1974). Had the jury been presented with Jones' extrajudicial statements, and had it chosen to believe them, it nonetheless would have been confronted by undisputed evidence that the defendant shot and killed Mrs. Riggs and was a party to the shooting of Peterman, all of which occurred during an armed robbery at which the defendant had planned to leave no witnesses. More importantly, it is highly unlikely, in view of the other evidence presented, that the jury would have chosen to believe Jones' jailhouse braggadocio.

To believe Jones' extrajudicial statements, the jury would have had to reject credible evidence establishing that Mrs. Riggs and Peterman were shot by the same gun. It would have had to reject the testimony of the two teenagers who testified that they were in the store when it was robbed and that only one of the robbers entered the store. It would have had to ignore Jenkins' testimony, which was consistent with the testimony of Jones and inconsistent with Jones' extrajudicial statements. And it would have had to disbelieve the defendant's admission that he had shot Peterman.

Our conclusion that the defendant is not entitled to a new sentencing trial is bolstered by a letter the defendant sent, after trial, to Jones (which would be admissible on retrial). In this letter, the defendant stated:

"I want you to know that I don't hold any hard feelings against you because in my eyes you told things as close to the truth as possible. But I think we both know that you got more than 10 dollars! . . .

"I'm sorry I got you into this shit, Bobby, and I want you to know that is the truth. We half-ass did a job and this is our price for mistakes."

The trial court properly denied the defendant's motion for a new sentencing trial, and the defendant's twenty-ninth enumeration of error is meritless.

19. Nothing in *Enmund v. Florida*, — U. S. — (102 SC 3368, 73 LE2d 1140) (1982), implies that, where the prosecutor waives the death penalty for two of three co-defendants, he may not seek a death penalty against a third. Nor does equal-protection doctrine mandate that co-defendants receive identical sentences. The defendant's fifth enumeration of error is meritless.

Sentence Review

20. The jury found the following statutory aggravating circumstances: "(1) The offense of murder was committed by a person with a prior record of conviction for a capital felony. (2) The offense of murder was committed while the offender was engaged in the commission of another capital felony, to-wit: armed robbery."

The first statutory aggravating circumstance is supported by evidence (certified copies of prior convictions) that the defendant had three prior convictions for armed robbery. The second statutory aggravating circumstance is supported by the same evidence which supported his conviction.

The jury's finding of statutory aggravated circumstances is supported by the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. OCGA § 17-10-35 (c) (2) (Code Ann. § 27-2537).

21. After review of the record in this case, including arguments of counsel, the

¹ If the defendant had shot only Mrs. Riggs, he surely would have been aware of the fact even if he was unaware that Jones had made any statements in support thereof.

APPENDIX A

range of the court and matters dealt with in Divisions 11, 16 and 17 of this opinion, we conclude that the sentence of death was not imposed under the influence of passion, prejudice, or other arbitrary factor. OCGA § 17-10-35 (c) (1) (Code Ann. § 27-2537).

(2) We find that the sentence of death is not excessive or disproportionate to penalties imposed in similar cases, considering both the crime and the defendant. OCGA § 17-10-35 (c) (3) (Code Ann. § 27-2537). Our cases show that juries find death penalty to be appropriate punishment where an adult defendant commits murder during an armed robbery.

In this case, the defendant stated before the robbery began that he intended to have no witnesses. He thereafter shot two unresisting, unarmed victims, each of whom was dropped by one shot and thereafter shot in the head. The defendant intended to kill both victims and only by chance did one survive. The callous and blood-thirsty behavior of this defendant has been condemned by death in many other cases.

In addition, the defendant had been convicted three times previously of armed robbery. This serious prior record of conviction for capital felonies additionally supports the imposition of the death penalty in this case.

The cases listed in the appendix support the death penalty in this case.

Judgment affirmed. All the Justices concur.

DECIDED JULY 7, 1983 —

REHEARING DENIED JULY 21, 1983

Murder, etc. Bibb Superior Court. Before Judge Johnson.

For Robert Daniel, for appellant:

Willis B. Sparks III, District Attorney, Thomas J. Matthews, Assistant District Attorney, Michael J. Bowers, Attorney General, Janice G. Hildenbrand, Staff Assistant Attorney General, for appellee.

APPENDIX

Castell v. State, 250 Ga. 776 (301 SE2d 234) (1983); *Horton v. State*, 249 Ga. 871 (295 SE2d 281) (1982); *Jones v. State*, 249 Ga. 605 (293 SE2d 708) (1982); *Wright v. State*, 249 Ga. 442 (291 SE2d 685) (1982); *Solomon v. State*, 247 Ga. 277 (277 SE2d 1) (1981); *Dick v. State*, 246 Ga. 697 (273 SE2d 124) (1980); *Wicker v. State*, 245 Ga. 68 (263 SE2d 109) (1980); *Jones v. State*, 243 Ga. 820 (256 SE2d 907) (1979); *Amadeo v. State*, 243 Ga. 627 (255 SE2d 718) (1979); *Haley v. State*, 241 Ga. 477 (246 SE2d 288) (1978); *Davis v. State*, 241 Ga. 376 (247 SE2d 45) (1978); *Corn v. State*, 240 Ga. 130 (240 SE2d 694) (1977); *Young v. State*, 237 Ga. 852 (230 SE2d 287) (1976); *Stephens v. State*, 237 Ga. 259 (227 SE2d 261) (1976); *Spencer v. State*, 236 Ga. 697 (224 SE2d 910) (1976); *Pulliam v. State*, 236 Ga. 460 (224 SE2d 8) (1976); *Dobbs v. State*, 236 Ga. 427 (224 SE2d 1) (1976); *Mason v. State*, 236 Ga. 46 (222 SE2d 339) (1976); *Mitchell v. State*, 234 Ga. 160 (214 SE2d 900) (1975).

ON MOTION FOR REHEARING.

We note that the trial judge, in his ruling on the state's challenge for cause of prospective juror Ms. Leckie, made a finding of fact that the prospective juror was conscientiously opposed to the imposition of the death penalty. We point out that it is helpful to this court for the trial judge to make such a finding rather than merely ruling on the challenge, particularly when several months have passed since the

case was tried by the time the case reaches this court.

39617, 39618. ROBERTS et al. v. GUNTER et al.; and vice versa.
251 Ga. 276

GREGORY, Justice.

This appeal and cross-appeal raise questions regarding Georgia's bank share tax statute, OCGA § 48-6-90 (Code Ann. § 91A-3301).

In 1974 the Gunters purchased approximately 60% of the stock of the Hamilton Bank and Trust Company from a bank holding company. In February 1975, Hamilton Bank filed with the Fulton County taxing authorities (appellants here) a document which the Bank claimed was its 1975 bank share tax return. In May 1975, the County Board of Tax Assessors furnished the Bank with a notice of assessment which assessed the Bank's shares at a higher value than the Bank's return (\$1,584,724). The 1975 bank share tax bill was sent to and received by the Bank, but it was not sent to the Gunters personally. On December 31, 1975, Hamilton issued a check for \$396.18 for the purpose of paying the entire bank share tax on Hamilton's shares for 1975 (the 1975 tax bill sent by the county was in excess of \$100,000).

In March 1976, Hamilton Bank requested an extension, which was granted, until April to file the bank's 1976 bank share tax return. Hamilton Bank filed what it argued was its 1976 bank share tax return in April (value of shares returned at \$958,426). In March 1976, Hamilton also established a special reserve account for payment of the bank share tax.

Hamilton Bank ceased banking operations and was placed in receivership on October 8, 1976, with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation taking over the bank operations. The National Bank of Georgia purchased certain assets and assumed certain liabilities of Hamilton (including the bank shares tax special reserve account, which then contained \$136,512, and corresponding tax liability), which it held for eight months before transferring them to the FDIC. The taxing authorities never sought to recover those funds from N.B.G. On October 11, 1976, the Tax Commissioner sent his notices of assessment to the now defunct Hamilton Bank (the 1976 county assessment was at \$1,627,410).

National Bank of Georgia transferred the accounts of the former Hamilton Bank to the FDIC in June 1977. The Tax Commissioner filed a claim for the unpaid 1975 and 1976 bank shares taxes in the receivership proceedings, which claim the FDIC disallowed.

In January 1977, attorneys for Fulton County sent notices of fi. fa. to the Gunters along with a letter explaining that the fi. fa. writs established a lien enforceable against any property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gunter to satisfy taxes owed based upon their stock ownership in the Hamilton Bank and Trust Company. The Gunters filed an Affidavit of Illegality, challenging the imposition of the tax, which they were allowed to amend later, and posted \$150,000 cash bond.

The Gunters sought summary judgment on their original Affidavit, which was denied, summary judgment being instead granted to the Fulton County tax authorities. A jury trial was held in June 1982, and a general verdict in favor of the Gunters was returned. In its judgment, the trial court cancelled the fi. fa. writs which had been issued against the Gunters and returned their cash bond.

APPENDIX A

17-10-30. Procedure for imposition of death penalty generally.

(a) The death penalty may be imposed for the offenses of aircraft hijacking or treason in any case.

(b) In all cases of other offenses for which the death penalty may be authorized, the judge shall consider, or he shall include in his instructions to the jury for it to consider, any mitigating circumstances or aggravating circumstances otherwise authorized by law and any of the following statutory aggravating circumstances which may be supported by the evidence:

(1) The offense of murder, rape, armed robbery, or kidnapping was committed by a person with a prior record of conviction for a capital felony;

(2) The offense of murder, rape, armed robbery, or kidnapping was committed while the offender was engaged in the commission of another capital felony or aggravated battery, or the offense of murder was committed while the offender was engaged in the commission of burglary or arson in the first degree;

(3) The offender, by his act of murder, armed robbery, or kidnapping, knowingly created a great risk of death to more than one person in a public place by means of a weapon or device which would normally be hazardous to the lives of more than one person;

(4) The offender committed the offense of murder for himself or another, for the purpose of receiving money or any other thing of monetary value;

(5) The murder of a judicial officer, former judicial officer, district attorney or solicitor, or former district attorney or solicitor was committed during or because of the exercise of his official duties;

(6) The offender caused or directed another to commit murder or committed murder as an agent or employee of another person;

(7) The offense of murder, rape, armed robbery, or kidnapping was outrageously or wantonly vile, horrible, or inhuman in that it involved torture, depravity of mind, or an aggravated battery to the victim;

(8) The offense of murder was committed against any peace officer, corrections employee, or fireman while engaged in the performance of his official duties;

(9) The offense of murder was committed by a person in, or who has escaped from, the lawful custody of a peace officer or place of lawful confinement; or

(10) The murder was committed for the purpose of avoiding, interfering with, or preventing a lawful arrest or custody in a place of lawful confinement, of himself or another.

(c) The statutory instructions as determined by the trial judge to be warranted by the evidence shall be given in charge and in writing to the jury for its deliberation. The jury, if its verdict is a recommendation of death, shall designate in writing, signed by the foreman of the jury, the aggravating circumstance or circumstances which it found beyond a reasonable doubt. In nonjury cases the judge shall make such designation. Except in cases of treason or aircraft hijacking, unless at least one of the statutory aggravating circumstances enumerated in subsection (b) of this Code section is so found, the death penalty shall not be imposed. (Code 1933, § 27-2534.1, enacted by Ga. L. 1973, p. 159, § 3.)

17-8-75. Improper statements by counsel generally.

Where counsel in the hearing of the jury make statements of prejudicial matters which are not in evidence, it is the duty of the court to interpose and prevent the same. On objection made, the court shall also rebuke the counsel and by all needful and proper instructions to the jury endeavor to remove the improper impression from their minds; or, in his discretion, he may order a mistrial if the prosecuting attorney is the offender. (Civil Code 1895, § 4419; Civil Code 1910, § 4957; Code 1933, § 81-1009.)

17-10-36. Establishment of unified review procedure by Supreme Court; effect on habeas corpus.

(a) The Supreme Court of Georgia shall establish, by rules, a unified motion for review procedure to provide for the presentation to the sentencing court and to the Supreme Court of all possible challenges to the conviction, sentence, and detention of defendants upon whom the sentence of death has been imposed, which challenges before March 20, 1980, have been presented for review by motion for new trial, motion to withdraw a guilty plea, appeal, writ of habeas corpus, or any other writ, motion, or proceeding cognizable in the courts of this state, except a claim or proceeding challenging the competency of counsel.

(b) The Supreme Court shall establish, by rules, a series of check lists to be utilized by the trial court, the prosecuting attorney, and defense counsel prior to, during, and after the trial of cases in which the death penalty is sought, to make certain that all possible matters which could be raised in defense have been considered by the defendant and defense counsel and either asserted in a timely and correct manner or waived in accordance with applicable legal requirements, so that, if the defendant is convicted and the sentence of death is imposed, the record and transcript of proceedings will be complete for a unified review by the sentencing court and the Supreme Court of all possible challenges to the

judgment of conviction, sentence of death, and the detention of the defendant.

(c) Nothing in this Code section or in the rules of the Supreme Court shall limit or restrict the grounds of review or suspend the rights or remedies available through the procedures governing the writ of habeas corpus.

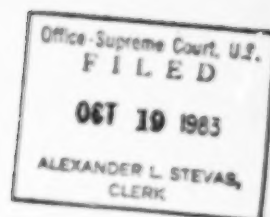
(d) The procedures governing the writ of habeas corpus may be employed to assert rights or seek remedies if the procedures established in the rules of the Supreme Court as applied to the petitioner are inadequate or ineffective in any constitutional sense. (Code 1933, § 27-2538, enacted by Ga. L. 1980, p. 390, § 1.)

17-10-31. Requirement of jury finding of aggravating circumstance and recommendation that death penalty be imposed prior to imposition of death sentence.

Where, upon a trial by jury, a person is convicted of an offense which may be punishable by death, a sentence of death shall not be imposed unless the jury verdict includes a finding of at least one statutory aggravating circumstance and a recommendation that such sentence be imposed. Where a statutory aggravating circumstance is found and a

recommendation of death is made, the court shall sentence the defendant to death. Where a sentence of death is not recommended by the jury, the court shall sentence the defendant to imprisonment as provided by law. Unless the jury trying the case makes a finding of at least one statutory aggravating circumstance and recommends the death sentence in its verdict, the court shall not sentence the defendant to death, provided that no such finding of statutory aggravating circumstance shall be necessary in offenses of treason or aircraft hijacking. This Code section shall not affect a sentence when the case is tried without a jury or when the judge accepts a plea of guilty. (Code 1933, § 26-3102, enacted by Ga. L. 1968, p. 1249, § 1; Ga. L. 1969, p. 809, § 1; Ga. L. 1973, p. 159, § 7.)

NO. 83-5389



IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
OCTOBER TERM, 1983

TERRY MICHAEL MINCEY,

Petitioner,

v.

STATE OF GEORGIA,

Respondent.

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION FOR THE RESPONDENT

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

I.

Whether this Court should grant a writ of certiorari to examine the Petitioner's claim of prosecutorial misconduct, when an examination of the decision of the Georgia Supreme Court makes it readily apparent that said claim was denied by the Georgia Supreme Court based solely on a state procedural ground?

II.

Whether this Court should grant a writ of certiorari to examine the denial of Petitioner's motion to preclude the death penalty as a possible penalty after this Court has repeatedly and consistently upheld the constitutionality of the Georgia capital punishment statute?

III.

Whether this Court should grant a writ of certiorari to examine the denial of Petitioner's motion for funds for investigation despite the fact there is no federal legal or constitutional requirement that such funds be provided?

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ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION FOR THE RESPONDENT

PART ONE

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The Petitioner, Terry Michael Mincey, was convicted of murder, armed robbery and aggravated battery on August 26, 1982 upon Indictment No. 23067 in the Superior Court of Bibb County, Georgia. On August 26, 1982, Petitioner was sentenced to death for the murder conviction, and sentenced to consecutive sentences of life imprisonment for the armed robbery conviction and twenty years imprisonment for the aggravated battery conviction.

Petitioner's convictions and sentences were affirmed by the Supreme Court of Georgia at Mincey v. State, 251 Ga. 255, ___ S.E.2d ___ (1983).

Petitioner now seeks a writ of certiorari from the
affirmance of his conviction and sentences by the Supreme Court
of Georgia.

Further facts may be developed herein as necessary for a
more thorough illumination of the issues presented to this
Court for resolution.

PART TWO

REASONS FOR NOT GRANTING THE WRIT

- A. THIS COURT SHOULD NOT GRANT THE REQUESTED WRIT BECAUSE THE GEORGIA SUPREME COURT, BASED SOLELY ON A STATE PROCEDURAL GROUND, REFUSED TO CONSIDER PETITIONER'S CLAIM OF PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT, I.E., PETITIONER HAD FAILED TO RAISE A TIMELY OBJECTION TO THE PROSECUTOR'S REMARKS AT TRIAL.

On this application for a writ of certiorari, Petitioner contends that the writ should issue because remarks made by the prosecutor at Petitioner's trial allegedly violated Petitioner's Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights by improperly commenting upon the Petitioner's failure to testify at trial. Respondent submits that the Supreme Court of Georgia refused to consider this claim, as raised by Petitioner on his direct appeal, based solely on state procedural grounds, i.e., Petitioner had failed to make a timely objection to the prosecutor's remarks at trial.

During the Petitioner's trial the prosecutor attempted to explain why the Petitioner's codefendants had agreed to testify against the Petitioner. The prosecutor stated:

We wouldn't pretend to you--we would be foolish if we told you that these men (the codefendants) care about truth and justice and come in here and that's their concern. We didn't pick them out. Mincey made them eyewitnesses when he got in the car with them. They are the kind of people he runs around with. We were stuck with them; we had to put them up because they were the witnesses.

But is there anything sinister in that arrangement? Have we done anything wrong?

Is it wrong to encourage people who see a murder to come into court and tell the truth? Now, Mr. Daniel (Petitioner's trial attorney) has brought out what the sentences are. Mr. Jones (a codefendant) has been sentenced to life. That's an irrevocable and final sentence. He has been sentenced to ten years consecutive to that. That's a final and irrevocable sentence. But on the other count, his sentence is open. And I'm sure that Mr. Jones hopes that by the testimony he gave yesterday that the judge, who controls his final sentence, will give him some consideration for coming in here and telling the truth. Anything wrong with that?

Is there anything wrong with the judge or a district attorney making a recommendation that would say that at least on the third count of these three counts a man who comes in and tells the truth should get somewhat better treatment than a man who refuses to tell the truth? Nothing sinister about that--unless, unless in an effort to improve their own positions Jones and Jenkins (the codefendants) came in here and told something different, changed their stories to come in here and make some deal. Now, I would agree with Mr. Daniel. So you have to ask yourself the question: Did Jones and Jenkins change their stories and come in here and make accusations against this poor man to make themselves a deal?

(T. 356-357). (Emphasis added).

Upon review of this comment, the Supreme Court of Georgia held that the Petitioner failed to interpose a timely objection to this argument and therefore, the Supreme Court of Georgia had nothing to review. Mincey v. State, 251 Ga. 255, ___ S.E.2d ___ (1983). The Supreme Court of Georgia specifically did not address nor decide the Petitioner's claim on anything other than this adequate and independent non-federal ground. With this in mind, Respondent notes that this Court has consistently adhered to the self-imposed principle that it will not review a state court judgment based upon an adequate and independent non-federal or state ground, even though a federal question may be involved and perhaps wrongly decided. Berea College v. Kentucky, 211 U.S. 45, 53 (1908). Fox Film Corp. v. Muller, 296 U.S. 207 (1935). In explanation of this policy, this Court has said:

The reason is so obvious that it has rarely been thought to warrant statement. It is found in the partitioning of power between the state and federal judicial systems and in the limitations of our own jurisdiction. Our only power over state judgments is to correct them to the extent that they incorrectly adjudge federal rights. And our power is to correct wrong judgments, not to revise opinions. We are not permitted to render an advisory opinion, and if the same judgment would be rendered by the state courts after we corrected its views of federal laws, our review would amount to nothing more than an advisory opinion.

Herb v. Pitcairn, 324 U.S. 117, 125-126 (1945); Zacchini v. Scripps-Howard Broadcasting Company, 433 U.S. 562, 566 (1977).

It is the Respondent's contention that there exists no federal question for review by this Court. An examination of the foregoing authorities, and the decision rendered by the Supreme Court of Georgia, readily reveals that the decision sought to be reviewed on this instant application for a writ of certiorari is clearly and adequately grounded upon state procedure and law, as opposed to federal law. Accordingly, there exists no federal question for review and this instant application for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

B. THIS COURT SHOULD REFUSE TO GRANT THE REQUESTED WRIT OF CERTIORARI BECAUSE THIS COURT HAS REPEATEDLY AND CONSISTENTLY UPHELD THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE GEORGIA CAPITAL PUNISHMENT STATUTE.

Petitioner contends that his Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights were violated by the trial court's handling of a number of the Petitioner's pretrial motions concerning the death penalty. Respondent submits that the trial court acted within the constitutional guidelines established by this Court, and that the Georgia capital punishment statute has been repeatedly and consistently held constitutional by this Court.

Petitioner challenges the death-qualification of jurors during voir dire, claiming that jurors so qualified are "conviction prone." Petitioner contends that the trial court should have ordered an evidentiary hearing with regard to this contention. However, in its review of this contention, the Supreme Court of Georgia examined this Court's decision in Witherspoon v. Illinois, 391 U.S. 510 (1968), as well as the decisions of Smith v. Balkcom, 660 F.2d 573 (5th Cir. 1981) and Spinkellink v. Wainwright, 578 F.2d 582 (5th Cir. 1978), and determined that there is no federal legal or constitutional requirement to hold an evidentiary hearing to determine whether a death-qualified jury is more prone to convict. Additionally, the Supreme Court of Georgia agreed with the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which held in the cases cited above, that even assuming that a death-qualified jury is

more likely to convict that a non-death-qualified jury, the practice of excluding for cause those potential jurors so unequivocally opposed to the death penalty that they would automatically vote against it, no matter what the evidence might reveal, does not deny a defendant his constitutional right to an impartial jury.

Petitioner also challenges the constitutionality of the imposition of any death penalty, as well as specifically challenging the constitutionality of the Georgia capital punishment statute. This Court has most recently upheld the imposition of capital punishment, as well as the constitutionality of the Georgia capital punishment statute, in Zant v. Stephens, ___ U.S. ___, 103 S.Ct. 2733 (1983). The Supreme Court of Georgia relied upon this Court's decision in Stephens in rejecting Petitioner's challenges to the capital punishment statute.

Petitioner also claims that it is unconstitutional that the Petitioner received the death penalty while his codefendants received life sentences. In reviewing this allegation, the Supreme Court of Georgia examined this Court's decision in Enmund v. Florida, ___ U.S. ___, 102 S.Ct. 3368 (1982) and found that the decision does not mandate that codefendants receive identical sentences.

The heart of this Court's holding in Enmund is that a person who did not himself kill, attempt to kill, or contemplate that life would be taken, but did aid and abet in the commission of a felony wherein a murder was committed, should not be subject to the death penalty. The logic of this holding is that only those persons who intended to and actually do commit murder should be subject to the death penalty. As evidence presented at trial showed that Petitioner intended to and actually did commit murder, the Supreme Court of Georgia correctly interpreted this Court's holding in Enmund and found that Petitioner was properly subject to the death penalty.

For all of the above and foregoing reasons, Respondent submits that the Supreme Court of Georgia was correct in its interpretation of the Petitioner's constitutional rights and Petitioner's allegations do not present any issue for review by this Court.

C. THIS COURT SHOULD REFUSE TO GRANT THE REQUESTED WRIT OF CERTIORARI BECAUSE THERE IS NO FEDERAL LEGAL OR CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT PETITIONER BE PROVIDED WITH FUNDS FOR AN INVESTIGATION SOLELY BECAUSE THE STATE HAD HIRED AN INVESTIGATOR.

Petitioner contends that, because the state hired an investigator, it is a violation of the Petitioner's Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment rights to have been denied funds for investigator. Respondent submits that the Supreme Court of Georgia, basing its decision solely upon state law and a finding that the trial court had not abused its discretion, was correct in finding that there was no merit to this allegation as raised by the Petitioner.

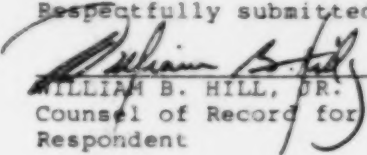
Respondent again asserts that the Supreme Court of Georgia addressed this issue solely upon adequate and independent non-federal grounds. As set forth above in Section A of this brief, Respondent notes that this Court has consistently adhered to the self-imposed principle that it will not review a state court judgment based upon an adequate and independent non-federal or state ground, even though a federal question may be involved and perhaps wrongly decided Berea College v. Kentucky, 211 U.S. 45, 53 (1908). Fox Film Corp. v. Muller, 296 U.S. 207 (1935). Accordingly, there exists no federal question for review and this instant application for a writ of certiorari should be denied.

CONCLUSION

This Court should refuse to grant a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of Georgia, as it is manifest that either there exists no federal question for review by this Court as to Petitioner's claims of prosecutorial misconduct and an unconstitutional denial of funds for an investigator, and there

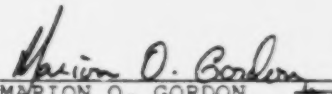
is no substantial federal question not previously decided by this Court and the decision sought to be reviewed is demonstrably in accord with the applicable decisions of this Court.

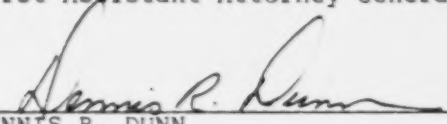
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I do hereby certify that I have this day served the within and foregoing brief in opposition, prior to filing the same, by depositing a copy thereof, postage prepaid, in the United States Mail, properly addressed upon:

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Honorable Willis B. Sparks
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Macon Judicial Circuit
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618 Mulberry Street
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This 17th day of October, 1983.


WILLIAM B. HILL, JR.